

Amendment
Serial No. 10/654,892
Attorney Docket No. 053432

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle inner belt molding to be fitted along an interior of an elevating window in a vehicle, wherein the vehicle has a door inner panel and a trim board being attached to the door inner panel and having a downward flange portion protruding downwardly from a position that is interior of an outer end of the trim board and that is exterior of an upper-edge flange portion of the door inner panel, the vehicle inner belt molding comprising:

a fitting portion to be attached to the door inner panel;

a sealing lip formed integrally with an exterior side of the fitting portion to be in elastic contact with an inner surface of the elevating window, and

a core member embedded in the fitting portion in the longitudinal direction thereof, the core member made of a material having an expansion resistance and a rigidity both larger than those of the fitting portion;

wherein the fitting portion has an upward opening groove fittable with the downward flange portion,

wherein the upward opening groove has a projection projecting from a wall of the upward opening groove, the projection extending longitudinally along the entire length of the vehicle inner belt molding,

wherein the fitting portion includes a car outer side fitting portion having the upward opening groove and a car inner side fitting portion having a downward opening groove for receiving the upper-edge flange portion of the door inner panel,

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wherein said car inner side fitting portion is nearer than said car outer side fitting portion to a center line of the vehicle when mounted,

wherein the core member has a cross sectional shape substantially similar to that of at least a part of the fitting portion, and

wherein said core member is approximately U-shaped in cross-section and is embedded in the car outer side fitting portion.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, wherein said wall is a side wall of the upward opening groove, and the projection is a gripping lip configured to grip the downward flange portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, wherein:
said wall is a side wall of the upward opening groove,
the projection is a gripping lip configured to grip the downward flange portion; and
the downward opening groove is provided with at least one gripping lip configured to grip the upper-edge flange portion.

5. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, further comprising:

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a cloth pressing piece protruding upward from the exterior side of the fitting portion;
wherein the cloth pressing piece is configured to press an end portion of a cloth covering
a surface of the trim board when the downward flange portion is fitted into the upward opening
groove.

6. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, wherein:

the fitting portion has one or more positioning slits partially crossing therethrough; and
the one or more positioning slits are configured to be engageable with one or more
positioning ribs projecting downward from a back surface of the trim board.

7. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 6, wherein a
thickness of the one or more positioning ribs is smaller than a width of the one or more
positioning slits.

8. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 7,
wherein:

said fitting portion has two or more positioning slits and said trim board has two or more
positioning ribs,

said two or more positioning slits are arranged at a predetermined interval in a
longitudinal direction of the fitting portion and are configured to receive said two or more
positioning ribs; and

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the positioning slits are formed so that the opposing surfaces of the positioning ribs are brought into contact with inner-side surfaces of the positioning slits when the positioning ribs are fitted into the positioning slits.

9. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 7, wherein:

said fitting portion has two or more positioning slits and said trim board has two or more positioning ribs,

said two or more positioning slits are arranged at a predetermined interval in a longitudinal direction of the fitting portion and are configured to receive said two or more positioning ribs; and

the positioning slits are formed so that the outer-side surfaces of the positioning ribs are brought into contact with outer-side surfaces of adjacent positioning slits when the positioning ribs are fitted into the positioning slits.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, wherein the fitting portion is made of thermoplastic elastomer material.

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12. (Original) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, wherein the sealing lip is made of a material which is capable of fusion-bonding to the fitting portion and which is softer and more elastic than the fitting portion.

13. (Currently Amended) A sealing structure of an elevating window in a vehicle, comprising:

a vehicle inner belt molding to be fitted along an interior side of the elevating window, the vehicle inner belt molding including a fitting portion configured to be attached to the vehicle and a sealing lip formed integrally with an exterior side of the fitting portion to be in elastic contact with an inner surface of the elevating window;

a trim board disposed inside of the elevating window, the trim board having a downward flange portion protruding therefrom; and

a core member embedded in the fitting portion in the longitudinal direction thereof, the core member made of a material having an expansion resistance and a rigidity both larger than those of the fitting portion;

wherein the fitting portion has an upward opening groove fittable with the downward flange portion,

wherein the vehicle inner belt molding is attached to the trim board by inserting the downward flange portion into the upward opening groove,

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wherein the upward opening groove has a projection projecting from a wall of the upward opening groove, the projection extending longitudinally along the entire length of the vehicle inner belt molding,

wherein the fitting portion includes a car outer side fitting portion having the upward opening groove and a car inner side fitting portion to be positioned interior of the outer fitting portion,

wherein said car inner side fitting portion is nearer than said car outer side fitting portion to a center line of the vehicle when mounted.

wherein the core member has a cross sectional shape substantially similar to that of at least a part of the fitting portion, and

wherein said core member is approximately U-shaped in cross-section and is embedded in the car outer side fitting portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The sealing structure according to claim 13,

wherein the outer fitting portion has one or more positioning slits partially crossing therethrough;

the trim board has one or more positioning ribs projecting downward from a back surface thereof; and

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the inner belt molding is attached to the downward flange portion while being positioned in a longitudinal direction by inserting the one or more positioning ribs into the one or more positioning slits.

15. (Previously Presented) The sealing structure according to claim 13, wherein

said wall is a side wall of the upward opening groove, and

the projection is a gripping lip configured to grip the downward flange portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The sealing structure according to claim 13, wherein

said wall is a bottom wall of the upward opening groove, and

the projection is a holding lip, said holding lip being elastically deformable.

17. (Previously Presented) The sealing structure according to claim 13, wherein

said wall is a side wall of the upward opening groove, and

the projection is a latching stripe, said latching stripe being configured to be received within a recess on the downward flange portion.

18. (Currently Amended) A sealing structure of an elevating window in a vehicle, comprising:

a vehicle inner belt molding to be fitted along an interior side of the elevating window, the vehicle inner belt molding including a fitting portion configured to

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be attached to the vehicle and a sealing lip formed integrally with an exterior side of the fitting portion to be in elastic contact with an inner surface of the elevating window; and
a trim board disposed inside of the elevating window, the trim board having a downward flange portion protruding therefrom, and

a core member embedded in the fitting portion in the longitudinal direction thereof, the core member made of a material having an expansion resistance and a rigidity both larger than those of the fitting portion;

wherein the fitting portion has an upward opening groove fittable with the downward flange portion,

wherein the fitting portion includes a car outer side fitting portion having the upward opening groove and a car inner side fitting portion having a downward opening groove,

wherein said car inner side fitting portion is nearer than said car outer side fitting portion to a center line of the vehicle when mounted,

wherein the vehicle inner belt molding is attached to the trim board by inserting the downward flange portion into the upward opening groove,

wherein the fitting portion has one or more positioning slits partially crossing therethrough,

wherein a back surface of the trim board has one or more positioning ribs projecting downward therefrom, the one or more positioning ribs being engageable with the one or more positioning slits, and the one or more positioning ribs being unitary with the trim board,

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wherein the upward opening groove has a projection projecting from a wall of the upward opening groove, the projection extending longitudinally along the entire length of the vehicle inner belt molding,

wherein the core member has a cross sectional shape substantially similar to that of at least a part of the fitting portion, and

wherein said core member is approximately U-shaped in cross-section and is embedded in the car outer side fitting portion.

19. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, wherein said wall is a bottom wall of said upward opening groove, and the projection is a holding lip, said holding lip being elastically deformable.

20. (Previously Presented) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, wherein said wall is a side wall of said upward opening groove, and the projection is a latching stripe, said latching stripe being configured to be received within a recess on the downward flange portion.

21. (Currently Amended) The vehicle inner belt molding according to claim 1, wherein said sealing lip ~~in elastic contact with the inner surface of the elevating window~~ is directed upwardly.

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22. (Previously Presented) The sealing structure according to claim 13, wherein said sealing lip in elastic contact with said inner surface of said elevating window is directed upwardly.

23. (Currently Amended) A sealing structure of an elevating window in a vehicle, comprising:

a vehicle inner belt molding to be fitted along an interior side of the elevating window, the vehicle inner belt molding including a fitting portion configured to be attached to the vehicle and a sealing lip formed integrally with an exterior side of the fitting portion to be in elastic contact with an inner surface of the elevating window; and

a trim board disposed inside of the elevating window, the trim board having a downward flange portion protruding therefrom;

wherein the fitting portion has an upward opening groove fittable with the downward flange portion,

wherein the vehicle inner belt molding is attached to the trim board by inserting the downward flange portion into the upward opening groove,

wherein the upward opening groove has a projection projecting from a wall of the upward opening groove, the projection extending longitudinally along the entire length of the vehicle inner belt molding,

wherein the fitting portion includes a car outer side fitting portion having the upward opening groove and a car inner side fitting portion to be positioned interior of the outer fitting portion,

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wherein said car inner side fitting portion is nearer than said car outer side fitting portion
to a center line of the vehicle when mounted, and

wherein a distance between the inner surface of the elevating window and the downward flange portion is larger than the distance between the inner surface of the elevating window and an outer end of the trim board.

24. (Currently Amended) A sealing structure of an elevating window in a vehicle, comprising:

a vehicle inner belt molding to be fitted along an interior side of the elevating window, the vehicle inner belt molding including a fitting portion configured to be attached to the vehicle and a sealing lip formed integrally with an exterior side of the fitting portion to be in elastic contact with an inner surface of the elevating window; and

a trim board disposed inside of the elevating window, the trim board having a downward flange portion protruding therefrom;

wherein the fitting portion has an upward opening groove fittable with the downward flange portion and has one or more positioning slits partially crossing therethrough,

wherein the vehicle inner belt molding is attached to the trim board by inserting the downward flange portion into the upward opening groove,

wherein a back surface of the trim board has one or more positioning ribs projecting downward therefrom, the one or more positioning ribs being engageable with the one or more positioning slits, and the one or more positioning ribs being unitary with the trim board,

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wherein the upward opening groove has a projection projecting from a wall of the upward opening groove, the projection extending longitudinally along the entire length of the vehicle inner belt molding,

wherein the fitting portion includes a car outer side fitting portion having the upward opening groove and a car inner side fitting portion to be positioned interior of the outer fitting portion,

wherein said car inner side fitting portion is nearer than said car outer side fitting portion to a center line of the vehicle when mounted, and

wherein a distance between the inner surface of the elevating window and the downward flange portion is larger than the distance between the inner surface of the elevating window and an outer end of the trim board.